

Appln No.: 09/678,357
Amendment Dated: November 5, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 5, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13 (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A method for diagnosing possible presence of gastritis in a human by evaluating a blood sample, comprising the steps of:

assaying the blood sample for the presence of antibodies specific for H,K-ATPase,

assaying the blood sample for the presence of antibodies specific for *Helicobacter pylori*,

assaying the blood sample for the concentration of pepsinogen I, and

comparing the presence of H,K-ATPase antibodies, *Helicobacter pylori* antibodies, and pepsinogen I concentration to the respective values of H,K-ATPase antibodies, *Helicobacter pylori* antibodies, and pepsinogen concentration of a normal population, and

further comprising the steps of multiplying the level of pepsinogen I by the level of *Helicobacter pylori* antibodies to get a number, and comparing the number to a number calculated similarly for the normal population.

wherein levels of H,K-ATPase antibodies, *Helicobacter pylori* antibodies, and pepsinogen I concentration in the sample and the number obtained by multiplying the level of pepsinogen I by the level of *Helicobacter pylori* antibodies that are different from the respective values in the normal population are indicative of gastritis.

15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the step of determining the levels of H,K-ATPase antibodies, *Helicobacter pylori* antibodies, and pepsinogen I, comprises performing immunoassays for detecting H,K-ATPase antibodies, *Helicobacter pylori* antibodies, and pepsinogen I.

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

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18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein a lowered level of pepsinogen I concentration is indicative of corpus atrophy.

19. (previously presented) The method according to 14, wherein an increased level of pepsinogen I concentration is indicative of a corpus gastritis, without any autoimmunity involved.

20. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein a level of H,K-ATPase antibodies differing from that of the normal population is indicative of an autoimmune corpus atrophy.

21. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein a level of Helicobacter pylori antibodies differing from that of the normal population is indicative of antrum, or pangastritis.

22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein increased levels of Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and normal to lowered concentrations of pepsinogen I are indicative of atrophy.

23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein very low concentrations of pepsinogen I in combination with increased levels of H,K-ATPase antibodies are indicative of corpus atrophy.

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein measured levels of H,K-ATPase antibodies and Helicobacter pylori antibodies which are significantly higher than levels in a normal population are indicative of gastritis.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein a lowered level of pepsinogen I concentration is indicative of corpus atrophy.

26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein an increased level of pepsinogen I concentration is indicative of a corpus gastritis, without any autoimmunity involved.

27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein a level of H,K-ATPase antibodies differing from that of the normal population is indicative of an autoimmune corpus atrophy.

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28. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein a level of *Helicobacter pylori* antibodies differing from that of the normal population is indicative of antrum, or pangastritis.

29. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein increased levels of *Helicobacter pylori* antibodies, and normal to lowered concentrations of pepsinogen I are indicative of atrophy.

30. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein very low concentrations of pepsinogen I in combination with increased levels of H,K-ATPase antibodies are indicative of corpus atrophy.

31. (canceled)

32. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein measured levels of H,K-ATPase antibodies and *Helicobacter pylori* antibodies which are significantly higher than levels in a normal population are indicative of gastritis.

33-43. (canceled)